

# FOOTBALL - ITS BENEFITS AND ILLS ACCORDING TO THE DIVINE LEGISLATION

Shaykh Mashhoor Hasan





كُرَّةُ الْقَدَمِ  
بَيْنَ الْمَصَالِحِ  
وَالْمَفَاسِدِ الشَّرْعِيَّةِ

- FOOTBALL -  
ITS BENEFITS AND ILLS  
ACCORDING TO THE  
DIVINE LEGISLATION<sup>1</sup>

*By Shaykh Mashhoor Hasan*

*Translated by AbdulHaq ibn Kofi ibn Kwesi ibn Kwaku al-Ashanti*

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<sup>1</sup> From Shaykh Mashhoor bin Hasan Aal Salmaan, *Kurraat ul-Qadam, Bayna'l-Masaalih wa'l-Mafaasid ash-Shar'iyyah* (Beirut: Daar Ibn Hazam, 1419 AH/1998 CE), pp. 1-41.

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## INTRODUCTION

Indeed all praise is due to Allaah, we praise Him, we seek His aid and ask for His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allaah from the evil of our souls and from the evil consequences of our actions. Whoever Allaah guides is guided, and whoever Allaah misguides there is none to guide. I bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship except Allaah and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and messenger, to proceed:

The game (football) is considered to be the best popular sport in the world and became widespread after the Second World War. Since that time the game became manifest as did its heroes (stars)!! And most of them are famous.

This game has gained importance these days in all of the lands and has come to be a significant phenomenon throughout the world. We see people becoming preoccupied with football matches more than being concerned with the fate of the Muslims throughout the world. This preoccupation with football has also become the concern of newspapers and magazines, and football matches are

aired regularly on TV screens. Whatever news or stories relating to football clubs and players is publicised and all of this attracts people to sport and to players. Furthermore, the people's naïveté, emptiness and forgetfulness cause them to forget the main purpose of their creation and the *real* goal (of their lives) that they have to realise.

My intent with this treatise is not to destroy and censure sports athletes, rather the intent is to bring to the attention of my Muslim brothers the harms that concern this game and the negative aspects that are connected to it will also be explained.

The game has become something that is not specifically for playing, except for a few people, rather the majority of people follow it with disgraceful purposes which we will articulate in this treatise by the will of Allaah, *Lord of the Worlds*, and may the prayers and peace be upon our Prophet Muhammad and on his family, and all of his companions, and all praise is due to Allaah, *Lord of the Worlds*.

*Mashhoor bin Hasan Aal Salmaan*

*'Ammaan (Jordan)*

# لَمَحَّةٌ عَنْ مَاهِيَةِ كُرَّةِ الْقَدَمِ وَأَنْوَاعِهَا

## A GLIMPSE AT FOOTBALL AND ITS DIFFERENT TYPES

Football is: a game played between two teams which each has eleven players. They use a pumped up ball on a rectangular shaped playing field which has a goal at each end for each team. Each team tries to get the ball pass the goal-keeper of the opposing team in order to gain a point (goal) and in order to gain superiority over the rival by achieving more goals.

The ball is moved around by the feet and during the game it is not permitted, except for the goal-keeper, to handle the ball with his hands inside the penalty area. As for the players it is not allowed for them to do that or to attempt to obstruct any opposition player in the way by use of the feet to cause the opposing player to stumble. However, it is possible for every player to fend off an opposition player by use of the shoulder or to intercept and thus put the ball far from the reach of the rival player.

As for what is connected to the rules of the game such as handling the ball for example or fouling or kicking the opposing player, this leads to the opposition team to get a free-kick at the point wherein the violation took place. In relation to the mistakes that take place in the penalty area of a defending team, the advancing team will get a direct free-kick at the goal.

The game begins with the ball being placed in the centre of the pitch and the game does re-start like this unless a goal has been scored. The game also stops when the ball goes off the touch-line or the goal-line and when the rules of the match permit any stoppages such as when a player is injured. As for when the ball crosses the goal-line, but not the actual goal, by an attacking team, the ball will return for a goal-kick for the goalkeeper. As for when the ball is put passed the goal line by a defending player of that goal then the ball goes for a corner kick for the attacking team.

The times of football matches are 90 minutes that are split into two equal halves and when football matches are played in schools and colleges the duration will be less than 90 minutes.

## **DIFFERENT TYPES OF FOOTBALL GAMES**

In addition to the well known variety of football, the harms of which we are about to make clear, there are other regional forms of similar games wherein inflated balls are used and are also known as “football”. Such games are played in the United States of America, Canada, Australia and Ireland, and they are:

### **1. AMERICAN FOOTBALL**

A very violent game indeed, it emerged in Harvard in 1872 CE and it was derived from the tradition of Rugby and named “football” whilst what is well known as football around the world is named “soccer” in America.

Each team consists of eleven players and they all use helmets on top of their heads and wear special protective clothing.

### **2. AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL (AUSSIE RULES)**



This game was founded in 1868 CE, the pitches that are used are of an oval shape whilst the ball resembles that of a Rugby ball. Each team consist of eighteen players and substitutes and fifteen who play on the actual pitch. Every player has an opponent and as for the other three they act as moving elements. When the ball passes the centre of the goal between an outer and inner post then the team scores a point. If an attacking team is able to put the ball through the two inner posts (of a set of four posts) then they score six points.

### **3. CANADIAN FOOTBALL**

Generally it resembles American football and has the same terminologies along with it yet with some differing rules. Each team consists of 12 players instead of eleven.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *Fann Kurrat ul-Qadam* (pp. 9-13) of Roohee Jameel also see *Football* by Peter Morgan translated into Arabic by Nadi Yahyaa, published by *Daar ul-Arabiyyah il-'Uloom*.

## A GLIMPSE AT THE HISTORY OF FOOTBALL

It has been said that the origin of football was in China as there was a sport that resembled football that had the name '*Tsu Chu*' in the third and fourth centuries BCE (Before Common Era). In Italy there was a football game being played under the name of '*Calcio*'<sup>3</sup> in 1410 CE. The first clear signs that this game was being played was in England immediately after the sudden death of a goal-keeper on 23 February 1585 CE.

In the year 1863 CE the British *Football Association (FA)* was founded and it was the English who developed it and then it transferred from continent to continent throughout that century. It remained like this for around seventy years until 1930 CE and the English would always be victorious over smaller inexperienced teams. After this period the Latin America football teams emerged and surpassed the teams in Britain and elsewhere.

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<sup>3</sup> In Italian, '*Calciare*' means 'to kick'.

Today there are over 130 states that are members of *FIFA* and in most European cities weekly betting over football results take place, such as with the betting agency *Toto*.<sup>4</sup> *FIFA* was established in Paris on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 1904 and under its jurisdiction formed the World Cup Championships in Monte Video, Uruguay. There are also other championships such as the European Championships, which is similar to the World Cup Championships, and was established in 1958 CE. Both the World Cup and European competitions are played every four years.

## **THE PERMISSIBILITY OF PLAYING FOOTBALL AND ITS BENEFITS**

Football training is from the affairs of the permissible, as we do not know of any proof to prohibit it. The origin of a thing is that it is permissible (a principle in *fiqh*) rather there is nothing that distances it from being from the permissible actions as long as a Muslim does it in order to strengthen the body and use it as a means for strength, exercise and vitality. In fact the legislation allows for reasons that will strengthen one's body, for the purpose of striving in the path of Allaah. It is verified that the Messenger of Allaah (*sallallaahu alayhi wassallam*) stated: *"The strong believer is better*

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<sup>4</sup> The '*Toto*' pools concept is established throughout many European countries and is a popular consumer product based on predicting football results. Other UK betting agencies and bookmakers include *Ladbrokes*, *William Hill*, *Tote* and *Coral*. [Translator's Note]

*and more beloved to Allaah than the weak believer, yet in both of them is good.”<sup>5</sup>*

Shaykh ul-Islaam Ibn Taymeeyah (*raheemahullaah*) stated: “Ball games are good as long as the intention of the one practicing it is for the benefit of training horses and men, so as to help them in attacking and retreating, and in entering and withdrawing and similar actions that take place during *jihad* (striving in the path of Allaah). The purpose (of such games) is to gain help during *jihad* which Allaah commanded and His Messenger (*sallallaahu alayhi wassallam*).<sup>6</sup> Yet if there are any detrimental factors of such games to horses and men then such games are forbidden.”<sup>7</sup>

Shaykh ‘Uthaymeen (*raheemahullaah*) explained the ruling on football and said “Playing sport is permissible so long as it does

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<sup>5</sup> Reported by Imaam Muslim in *as-Saheeh* (hadeeth no. 2664)

<sup>6</sup> Here, *jihad* (which means *striving* or *struggling*, not ‘*holy war*’) has been clearly mentioned by Shaykh ul-Islaam Ibn Taymiyyah as being **“that which Allaah and His Messenger have commanded”**. This therefore **does not** include the heretical and deviated understandings of *jihad* that some of the misguided Muslim youth have attached themselves to, such as wrecking havoc in the community, terrorism, frightening innocent and peaceful people, suicide bombings, extremist and fanatical methodologies and other evil actions that people consider to be from the praiseworthy actions of *jihad*. [Translator’s Note]

<sup>7</sup> *Mukhtasar al-Fataawa al-Misriyyah* (p. 251), as mentioned by Shaykh Hamood at-Tuwayjuree (*raheemahullah*) in *al-Eedaah wa’t-Tabyeen*, p.197. What is also worth mentioning is that football was referred to by a number of different names by the scholars of the past in the books of Arabic language. Thus, we find words such as “*al-Kujja*” and “*al-Buksa*” and “*al-Khazafa*” and “*at-Toon*” and “*al-Aajarra*” and “*as-Saulajaan*” and “*al-Kurra*”. These can be found under the items of “*Baks*” and “*Kaj*” and “*Toon*” and “*Kurra*” and “*Akra*” in *al-Qaamoos ul-Muheet* and under the subject of “*Toon*” and “*Kajaj*” and “*Kuraa*” in *al-Lisaan ul-Arab*. Also see the following items: “*Najar*” and “*Yajar*” and “*Jahaf*” and “*Maqt*” and under these terms can be found an explanation of the game itself.

not distract from those things which are obligatory, for if it distracts from the things which are obligatory then it becomes impermissible. So if it becomes a common habit and takes up too much of a person's time wherein a person wastes their time with it, then such a condition is hated. Also if a person plays sports and wears shorts that expose the thighs or more, then this is not permissible, as what is correct is that it is obligatory on the youth to cover their thighs and as a result it is not permissible to watch players in such a state (exposing their '*awrah*') wherein their thighs are uncovered.”<sup>8</sup>

The renowned scholar Shaykh Muhammad bin Ibraaheem (*raheemahullaah*) prohibited setting up special leagues, associations and federations (with the meaning of those who specifically set up such federations and leagues for football players). The Shaykh permitted football if it was not for this purpose yet he regarded football, under leagues and federations, as including the following factors:

1. The nature of the game causes fanatical partisanship, tribulations and the development of hatred and malice and all of these results are contrary to what Islaam calls to. As

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<sup>8</sup> *Asilah Muhmalah* (p.27), distributed by *Daar Ibn ul-Qayyim*, Dammaam. Likewise ruled the Standing Committee for Islamic Research and Ruling in Saudi Arabia, fatwa no. 2857 on 8/3/1400 AH; fatwa no. 3323 on 19/12/1400 AH and fatwa no. 4967 on 20/9/1402 AH, as signed by Shaykh Abdul-‘Azeez bin ‘Abdullah ibn Baaz, Shaykh ‘Abdur-Razzaaq ‘Afeefee, Shaykh ‘Abdullaah bin Ghudayaan and Shaykh ‘Abdullaah bin Qu’ood.



Islaam is concerned with tolerance, brotherhood, rectification and purification of the hearts and souls from resentment, grudges and discord that exists between the winners and the losers within this game. So from this angle football is prohibited as it can be a reason for social discord as it develops rancour in the players and the fans and thus cause tribulation amongst them.<sup>9</sup> To the extent that it even reaches the level of prejudice wherein some fans will have so much hatred for some players that they will resort to aggression and fighting, and this is well known and has been witnessed.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> There must be no other country in the world that has a worse record and reputation for football hooliganism and yob culture than England. Even as early as 1314 CE the mayor of London banned football within the city due to the commotion that it usually caused! English, Scottish and French kings throughout the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries CE suppressed football as it was regarded as a public nuisance!! Nowadays, in many *kuffaar* lands it is allowed for supporters of different football from the varying cities and areas to have mutual hatred and fight and kill each other due to bigoted allegiances to a local club and area. Some football fans from the different areas of London for example are so extreme in their football barbarism that they even begin to worship the character and follow the ideas of Adolf Hitler! The very individual who bombed London to pieces!! [Translator's Note]

<sup>10</sup> Throughout Europe, there are many football fans that exhibit fanatical racism towards players who are of brown or dark brown complexions. This results in crowds jeering and cursing players due to the fact that they are of a different ethnic origin. What is also strange is that this racism seems to be tolerated within 'civilised' European football federations and such fans are only given scant admonition. Furthermore, in England some *kuffaar* football fans will perform crazy publicity stunts wherein they will run onto a football pitch and even attempt to punch or kick a football player!? For example, when the city of Birmingham play against Aston Villa (another area next to Birmingham) fans of Aston Villa will run onto the pitch and begin fights with Birmingham City players! In relation to this, many football fans exhibit partisanship due to them being more in number and will thus chant abuses at football players for the whole world to hear and the players must accept such abuses on a regular basis!? Furthermore, it can work the other way around, wherein football players show violence to fans and may even attempt flying kicks and other acrobatical feats at fans who are jeering them! Even football

2. Also the things that afflict the game from errors on the bodies of the players which are the results from clashes and fist-fights. Therefore, at the end of the game in most cases you will find that some of the players will be slumped on the playing field after having fainted or broken a leg or hand or injured. What proves this is the presence of ambulances by their sides (inside the stadiums).
3. Football does not serve the goal of the things that are a justification for allowing sporting activities within the Divine Legislation of Islaam, like exercising the body or as fighting practice or to eradicate chronic illness.
4. The times for the prayer pass by whilst the players and fans abandon the prayers or the congregational prayer, or delay them from their appropriate times. There is no doubt that about the prohibition of any action that delays the prayer from its proper time, there is no legislated excuse for this.
5. Furthermore, within football the players expose their *'awrah*, the *'awrah* of the man being the navel to the knee, yet we find that the football kits include shorts that only stretch to the middle of the thigh and some are shorter than this, yet it is well known that the thigh is *'awrah*.
6. Football prevents the player and the fan from the remembrance of Allaah.

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players from predominantly Muslim countries are not free from such crass behaviour, al-Hajj Diouf from Senegal, spat in the faces of some fans at a match in Scotland! [TN]

7. Football also includes wasting money for futile ends such as gambling and betting which is of two kinds:

- The winner taking prizes from it whether cash or in kind, then this is prohibited by consensus.
- Or from the fans who attend the football matches taking such cash prizes and this is impermissible according to the more correct of the two opinions.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> The author of *al-Musaabaaqaat ath-Thaqaafiyyah* (p.207) notes in relation to this: "There is another saying of permissibility, if the matter was likely", Then he said on page 208 under 'probability' and included some conditions that permit football: "that money should not be given to the winner due to winning and I see that if it such money has to be paid by all who attend the match then there is no problem in that as it is akin to hiring and leasing. An amount is deserving from the fans can be from one of the following three conditions:

1. When the players have to pay a fixed amount to the owner of a football pitch whether the owner is the government, local council or a private owner, and the rest of the money is for them (the owner) and the loss is on owner.
2. When the owner of a football pitch takes money from the spectators and pays a certain amount to the players and the remainder of the money is for him and the loss is also on him.
3. When the amount is split into specific instalments, to the owner of the pitch is an instalment and to the teams playing are also instalment. For example, the owner of the pitch is given half a third is taken by one of the two teams and to the other a sixth and so forth. As for specifying the winner with a certain amount or discriminatory portion, then this is not permissible.

Doctor Rafeeq al-Misree in his book *al-Maysir wa'l-Qamaar – al-Musaabaaqaat wa'l-Jawaa'iz (Games of Chance and Gambling – Competitions and Prizes)* (p.156) after speaking about offering prizes to sports that are associated with fighting such as wrestling, *Karate* and *Judo*: "If there is running practice involved in it and also the skills of patience and maintaining bodies in a healthy way, such as football, then it is permissible. However, it is impermissible when it involves money and maybe there is no problem in it if a prize is given symbolically such as a cup or certificate." I say: the saying that prevents taking money from the spectators is better and also preventing making a living off this sport via professionals, not to mention purchasing ("football stars") for high prices!! And Allaah knows best. Look firstly to the prohibition of watching and if this issue is permissible in "*Araa'is ul-Gharar wa Gharaa'is ul-Fikr fee Ahkaam in-Nadhr*" (*The Brides of Danger and Seedlings of Thought Concerning the Regulations of Looking*) of al-Hamawee ash-Shaafi'ee (pp.96-97).

8. Football can be a pretext to occupying the self with it especially when people become occupied with vain talk and mere play, and the souls then begin to desire sitting in front of it for a long time. I say: the means are not restricted in the Legislation to specify strengthening the body however this state is conditional without transgressing the regulations of the Divine Legislation, and likewise without falling into harms that will be mentioned. Therefore, if it is coupled with actions which should be avoided and other corruptions and harms then its ruling would be based on this and would definitely lead to a ruling prohibiting it,<sup>12</sup> such as in the case of some football maniacs and biased, bigoted supporters of the game.

## **A MESSAGE TO THE FOOTBALL FANATICS AND MANIACS**

We present to the football fanatics and maniacs the following message:

Football with some people is, and what will make you comprehend what football is? Football has a maniacal influence over the

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<sup>12</sup> For this reason Shaykh ‘Abdul-Azeez as-Salmaan (*raheemahullaah*) said in *al-Asilah wa’l-Ajwibah al-Fiqhiyyah* (vol. 5, p.358): “I say: what is known is that football causes people to leave off the prayer and wastes time and causes filthy speech such as cursing and slander, and also exposing the ‘*awrah* and bodily harms and ‘he say, she say’ and forgetting the remembrance of Allaah. There is not doubt about football’s impermissibility if it brings up these things, or some of these things, from mature intelligent people.”

intellects of people in the current era.<sup>13</sup> Due to it, battles take place and wars begin in which victims are killed, and for its glory marriages break up and families separate and a brother will stab his brother and there is no power or might except with Allaah....!!

The day when a football match is played it is like a fierce battle has been announced, as flags are raised and news is broadcasted and screens are set-up and the fans have bricks ready along with knives, drums, flutes, choral cheering and strong chanting!

Also there is feeling of losing a battle whenever one of the teams loses, to the extent that the realm of the battlefield is transferred to the football pitch. Moreover, the realm of the battlefield is also felt in houses, schools, offices and cafes whether in small societies or large. Football matches further venture into the realm of a battlefield whenever there are victims from both sides, thus what can temper its violence, and the feeling of exuberance? Until another battlefield begins at the next game...and so on. And if you were to raise your voice whilst discussing with one who is afflicted with football fanaticism he will grin at you saying “I’m a sportsman”!!

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<sup>13</sup> In many countries wherein football is regarded as the “national game” the people at the same time still regard themselves as being “rational and intelligent human beings” and this is used as a pretext by *kuffaar* to reject *tawheed*. Yet at the same time they do not realise their own irrational behaviour when the majority of their country-men participate in murder, fighting and street warfare all in the name of football!! [TN]



This is our story of football, the accused game, and this is the face of this false game as our youth see it. As for the real face of this game then indeed we view it, when we understand it in the context of Islaam and its methodology in building societies, that football is from the games that Islaam commends and the study of it is commended also. Football involves studying lessons in unity as opposed to division, and unity contrary to splitting, and mutual love as opposed to hatred and enmity. A game that emphasises such ends, it is not possible to realise them except by teamwork, and the group is greater than the individual.

I ask a question to those who raise the flag of blind partisanship, and do not understand sport except for the name: is it possible for a selfish egotistical player to score a goal by himself depending on his own ability?

Are we aware of the lesson from the school of football that people are so bigoted towards? Do those that encourage the Muslims know the spirit of partisanship and division, egotism and obstinacy? In the end it leads to shocking defeat, in all domains of the championship.

Unfortunately, we know of no way to reach contentment or to be free from anxiety, we attach importance to the outward and we throw the essence behind our backs.

What is the point of me devoting myself to football, invoking football and being bigoted towards it? The meaning of it is that I would be shallow in my thinking, narrow-minded, egotistic and opinionated, not understanding anything from sportsmanship and not finding anything in sport except for frivolous applause and frantic cheering.

Indeed, we do not warn against encouraging sport, however there is a big difference between encouragement and bigoted partisanship, and a difference between the language of stones and bricks (i.e. violence) and the language of sportsmanship that we learn whilst smiling in defeat and being humble in victory, thus we learn that some days are good and some are bad. As the poet said:

*Some days are against us and some are for us,  
The day is slow and the day is swift*

Indeed, the Messenger of Allaah (*sallallaahu alayhi wassallam*) put forth a great example for us regarding sportsmanship, thus we would learn a lesson!!

From Anas bin Maalik (*radi Allaahu anhu*) who said that the Prophet (*sallallaahu alayhi wassallam*) had a she-camel named *al-Adba'a*: *"The she-camel of the Messenger of Allaah had not been beaten in any race. Then a Bedouin came on his camel and raced the Messenger of*

*Allaah's and won the race. It was as if this troubled the companions of the Prophet (sallallaahu alayhi wassallam).*

However, the great teacher, the Messenger of Allaah (*sallallaahu alayhi wassallam*) seized the opportunity to teach the companions about sportsmanship and gave them a lesson regarding being contented with the worldly life which does not last for anyone, he said, *may prayers and peace be upon him: "Indeed, it is the right of Allaah that He raises something in the Dunya and also debases it."*<sup>14</sup>

Have you thought about this oh you sports-people?<sup>15</sup>

I ask Allaah for forgiveness, good health and a cure from every ailment for me and for the biased partisans.

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<sup>14</sup> Verified by al-Bukhaaree in his *saheeh* (vol. 6, p.73) *hadeeth* no. 2871 and (vol. 11, p.340) *hadeeth* no. 6501 and Ibn Qayyim (*raheemahullaah*) mentioned regarding this *hadeeth* in his book *al-Furoosiyyah* (p. 91) "Contemplate the Prophets words "Allaah does not raise anything in the Dunya except that He also debases it", Allaah debases while He also raises. Yet if Allaah raises a servant due to his obedience, Allaah honours the servant due to the obedience and does not debase the servant at all."

<sup>15</sup> 'Abdur-Rahmaan Waasil, *Mushkilaat ush-Shabaab ul-Jinsiyyah wa'l-Aatifiyyah that Adwaa'i'sh-Sharee'at il-Islaamiyyah*, pp.248 – 250.

## أَضْرَارُ كُرَّةِ الْقَدَمِ

## THE HARMS OF FOOTBALL

What we find with football matches around the world is that they contain a number of negative attitudes and outward evils that can be summed up in the following:<sup>16</sup>

1. That football becomes a means to divide the *ummah* and create enmity and hatred between individuals in it, wherein vile partisanship to different sports teams is common. Thus this person encourages and supports one team and that person encourages and supports another, to the extent that the people of one family split up amongst themselves. This one follows a team and that one follows another team and the matter does not stop at mere support for teams, rather the followers of a winning team begin to make sarcastic comments about the losing team and at the end of it is

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<sup>16</sup> These harms are taken from the following books: *Mushkilaat ush-Shabaab fee Daw'il-Islaam* of 'Abdul-Haleem 'Uways (p. 89); *al-Hayaat ul-Ijtimaaiyyah fee Tafkeer il-Islaamee* of Ahmad Shiblee (p.235); *al-Qimaar wa 'Anwaauhu fee Daw' ish-Sharee'* at il-'Islaamiyyah of Shukree 'Alee at-Taweel (p. 144 – 148); and *al-Eedaah wa't-Tabyyeen lama Waqaa' fihi al-Akthareeyoon min Mushaabihat il-Mushrikeen* of Shaykh Hamood at-Tuwayjuree (*raheemahullaah*) (p. 190 – 199).

argumentation and scuffling amongst supporters, which leads to people becoming wounded and fighting resulting in people dying, the victims of football!! The organisers of the world cup final between Brazil and Uruguay on July 16 1950 at the *Maracanaa* stadium in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, were compelled to make a hole thirteen metres wide and a metre and a half deep to protect the players from the crowds and vice versa.<sup>17</sup>

2. The foundation of Islaam's stimulus for sport is so that the Muslim uses it for his/her benefit or for others, in order to achieve desired bodily strength. As for football these days then its main intent is to please football fans and supporters, whose numbers reach hundreds of thousands and more and do not really benefit at all from football. One of the largest audiences of a sports match, not including the Olympic games, was when 1500 million viewers attended the world cup (football) final in 1982 CE.<sup>18</sup> During the 1950 CE world cup football finals, the final that took place between Brazil and Uruguay at the *Maracana* stadium in Brazil had 205,000 viewers of which 199,854 had purchased tickets for the event.<sup>19</sup> So tell me by your Lord, what do all of these people in their great numbers benefit from attending a match?! And

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<sup>17</sup> Roohee Jameel, *Fann Kurrat ul-Qadam* (p.114)

<sup>18</sup> 265 *Su'aal wa Jawaab fi'r-Riyaadati wa Tasliyyah* (265 Questions and Answers Regarding Sport and Entertainment) (p.10)

<sup>19</sup> 265 *Su'aal wa Jawaab fi'r-Riyaadati wa Tasliyyah* (265 Questions and Answers Regarding Sport and Entertainment) (p.16) and also *Fann Kurrat ul-Qadam* (p. 94).



how many lose their societies due to wasting time and energy with this?! Not to mention the evils that afflicts some of these people such as death, heart attacks and suicides. As for the things that football also causes many viewers to fall into is foul language, setting bad examples, filthy speech, bad mouthing, slander, cursing each other and the referees.<sup>20</sup> All of this is not allowed and impermissible in Islaam.<sup>21</sup> Such things are famous and witnessed in football matches. Yet these things are not only restricted to the viewers as players also fall into them, for example: in a cup match between two teams in England that took place on October 3 1969 CE the referee issued 22 free kicks to players and in the end many of the players had to go to hospital. On December 23 1973 CE during a cup game between two English teams, the referee took off a whole team as well as some of the people in charge of the team. Before a match on February 2 1975 CE every single player was warned including the substitutes, the

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<sup>20</sup> What is common practice in football, especially within the English premiership, is for players to constantly swear or get into fights with each other quite openly in front of millions of viewers including children. This kind of irresponsible behaviour is hardly ever questioned and has become accepted and has an effect in raising the passions and violent desires of the fans. In terms of disrespecting the referee, then many players swear and display a lack of manners in dealing with them, who are usually older than the players. The national team of Argentina (a country which has the largest population of Jews in south American) are famed for their childish attempts to bully referees into changing their decisions, and will man-handle or surround the referee in order to intimidate the ref! Indeed, in Aussie rules football some players have even beaten up the referees!! The fans also join in and compose filthy chants and uncivilised jeers wherein they call for the violent removal of the referee alongside mockery of his decisions. [TN]

<sup>21</sup> It is also as if the innovations of cheering, jeering, clapping and whistling are all a necessary part of sport these days!!

referee could not relax due to the cheering and cheering from the supporters.<sup>22</sup>

3. Football sometimes contains much harm to the players such as dislocating muscles, breaking legs and arms, pulling muscles, face and head wounds<sup>23</sup> and even falling unconscious for an hour or so. Thus such affairs destroy their own selves as one football player informed us of, so if this is the case of the sport then playing it is not permissible. It may even be the case that such players are given drugs and boosts to enhance their performance.<sup>24</sup> This has become widespread amongst the *kuffaar* from time to time from what is known about this game. Some of the fanatics try to outwit people by using such enhancements, and there is no might or power except with Allaah.
1. Football causes hundreds of thousands of spectators to turn away from the remembrance of Allaah and from the prayer. This is well known with the common people, and as a result whatever averts people from the remembrance of Allaah is

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<sup>22</sup> Roohee Jameel, *Fann Kurrat ul-Qadam* (pp. 112 – 113)

<sup>23</sup> A football player in England during the mid-1980s, who used to play for Luton Town, used to get so many head injuries that his trade mark was a huge head-band!! [TN]

<sup>24</sup> One football player from Argentina, who is regarded as one of the greatest football players to have ever existed, claimed in 1986 CE that one of his goals (wherein he tricked the referee via a slight of the hand and utilised his hand to score) was due to “The Hand of Allaah”. This very same player has been debased by Allaah into a filthy disgusting obese crack cocaine addict and alcoholic!! Last year a football player in the north of England failed to turn up for a compulsory routine drugs test claiming that he was still in bed! The reality was that he had been using some kind of drug. In athletics this is more common and many athletes have been stripped of their medals as revelations emerged concerning their cheating by using anabolic steroids and other banned substances. Or, they have been smoking or using other drugs as escapism from their demanding careers. [TN]

impermissible. How much have we heard about people who follow world cup football matches, that they wake up during the last half of the night in order to watch matches on TV screens and they miss *salaat ul-fajr*?! And how many miss the pray in congregation due to sitting in front of TV screens?! Also the things that the people who travel from country to country or city to city fall into in order to attend a football match. It may be the case that these matches are during the times for *salaat ul-jumu'ah*. I indicated this crime in my book *al-Qawl ul-Mubeen fee Akhtaa'il-Musalleen*<sup>25</sup> under the title '*How Football Spectators Deviate from Salaat ul-Jumu'ah*.' I stated that: "Those crowds of people who gather in their hundreds of thousands at grandstands do so during the time for *jumu'ah* prayers. The call for prayers is given, however! Indeed it is for them to respond to it, yet their intellects have been denied and their perception is dead, in front of what?! In front of repugnant bias and partisanship to different sports teams." Then I also drew upon some speech warning (against football) and I brought forth the *ahaadeeth* concerning leaving the Friday congregational prayer, such as: Anas ibn Maalik (*radi Allaahu 'anhumaa*) said "*Whoever leaves three consecutive jumu'ah prayers, Islaam has been thrown behind his back.*"<sup>26</sup> From Abi'l-Ja'd ad-Damree (*radi Allaahu 'anhu*) who

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<sup>25</sup> p. 218 - 322

<sup>26</sup> Verified by Aboo Ya'la in a *mawqoof* form with an authentic chain of narration, as is found in *at-Talkhees ul-Habeer* (vol.2, p.53) and others.

heard the Prophet (*sallallaahu alayhi wassallam*) say “Whoever leaves three consecutive *jumu’ah* prayers out of negligence, Allaah seals the person’s heart.”<sup>27</sup> The meaning of “out of negligence” is: a lack of concern for the command to pray *jumu’ah*, because having contempt of the obligations from Allaah is disbelief, it is an action that he should be doing but he leaves it, meaning: neglectfully. It maybe the case that the one who leaves the Friday congregational prayer are cautious aware of their transgression which they have become reckless about. If not, their destiny is for their hearts to be sealed. Kindness will neither encompass the heart nor will Allaah’s mercy, rather the heart will remain in disgrace as it used for sins and repulsive actions, and Allaah’s refuge is sought. As for the hearts being sealed their hearts will be filled with futile matters, devoid of goodness. From what is apparent from the *hadeeth* and the narrations of the first people, is that whoever leaves the Friday congregational prayer out of negligence, meaning **without a viable excuse**, his heart will be sealed and he will be of those who are heedless and from the hypocrites, even if his leaving (the *jumu’ah*) was dispersed, such as one who leaves a *jumu’ah* every year. It is possible that what is intended is the three consecutive *jumu’ah* prayers, as the narration from Ibn ‘Abbaas indicates. The three

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<sup>27</sup> Verified by at-Tirmidhee in *al-Jaami’*, *hadeeth* no. 500 and Aboo Daawood in *as-Sunan*, *hadeeth* no.1052; an-Nasaa’ee in *al-Mujtaba* (vol. 3, p.88); Ahmad in *al-Musnad* (vol. 3, pp. 424, 425); Ibn Maajah in *as-Sunan*, *hadeeth* no. 1125 and others. The *hadeeth* is *saheeh*.

concessions (regarding missing the *jumu'ah* intentionally) can be considered to be from Allaah to the servant and His Mercy to the servant so that the servant will repent from his sin and return to Allaah's guidance, performing *jumu'ah* without leaving it without a valid excuse. The benefit of the *hadeeth* is that: whoever the *jumu'ah* is obligatory upon and then leaves it without a valid excuse, has committed a grave sin and will be fit for a painful punishment. Some of the people of knowledge such as Maalik, Ahmad and Shaafi'ee stated whoever *jumu'ah* is obligatory upon and does not have a excuse to leave it (such as the football spectator and player) then it is not correct for them to pray *dhuh*r before the prayer of the *Imaam* and it is obligatory on them to walk briskly if they think that they can catch it, as it is obligatory upon them. If they can pray it in time with the *Imaam*, they should pray it and if they miss the *jumu'ah* they should pray *dhuh*r. If they think that they will miss the *jumu'ah* prayer, they should wait until they know for sure that the *Imaam* has prayed *jumu'ah* and then they pray *dhuh*r.<sup>28</sup> The evidence for this is the statement of 'Abdullaah bin Mas'ood, "*whoever misses two rak'aahs should pray four rak'aahs.*"<sup>29</sup> What is sought from the one upon whom *jumu'ah* is obligatory, yet leaves it without a

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<sup>28</sup> *Ad-Deen ul-Khaalis* (vol. 4, p.294)

<sup>29</sup> Verified by Ibn Abee Shaybah in *al-Musannaf* (vol. 1, p.126) and by at-Tabaraanee in *al-Kabeer*, and the *hadeeth* is *hasan* as mentioned in *al-Mujamaa'* (vol.2, p.192) and there are other people who have verified it.



valid excuse, is to pray *dhubr* and make an atonement of a *deenaar* and if that cannot be found then half a *deenaar*. Samurah bin Jundub reported that the Prophet (*sallallaahu alayhi wassallam*) said “Whoever leaves the Friday congregational prayer on purpose, should pay an atonement of a *deenaar* and if that cannot be found then half a *deenaar*.”<sup>30</sup> Some of the scholars say that the command here is regarding what is recommended, as *jumu’ah* has a replacement which is *dhubr*. So what is apparent is that the issue here is regarding obligation and *jumu’ah* has a replacement but this does not mean the obligation is left as it has an atonement which is the *dhubr* prayer, a retribution for leaving *jumu’ah* without a valid excuse. What is more suitable to those who are lax regarding this symbol from the symbols of Allaah is physical rebuke and strong reprimand.<sup>31</sup> May Allaah have mercy on the son of one of the brothers who said regarding those who leave *jumu’ah*: “Whoever has been preoccupied from it due to working and trying to make more money or due to vain talk and play, to the point that these become the main parts of his life. His fate will worsen and neither his greyness (i.e. old age) nor his position should prevent you (from advising him). As the people before you were destroyed because if a powerful person from among them stole they left him alone,

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<sup>30</sup> Verified by Aboo Daawood in *as-Sunan*, *hadeeth* no. 1053); an-Nasaa’ee in *al-Mujtabaa* (vol. 3, p.89); Imaam Ahmad in *al-Musnad* (vol. 5, pp.8 and 14); Ibn Maajah in *as-Sunan*, *hadeeth* no. 1128. the *hadeeth* is *hasan* from all its paths of transmission.

<sup>31</sup> This can only obviously be implemented in a country which has Islamic courts and laws. [TN]

yet if a weak person stole they established the Divinely Legislated punishment upon him.”<sup>32</sup>

2. Football competitions have become destructive elements that are used by the enemies of Islaam, as what they encourage attaches honour to the *ummah*. As now the *ummah*, in the name of different sports including football, wastes considerable money and time.<sup>33</sup> Instead of the *ummah* being occupied with beneficial actions and beneficial manufactures, the *ummah* has become within the rank of developed countries, from the backward nations and countries. Furthermore, the *ummah* needs to become occupied with the thought of struggling against its enemies, this issue of which is of great importance. Another thing that emphasises this is what is found in the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*,<sup>34</sup> under

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<sup>32</sup> *al-Ma'aalim ul-Qurba*, p. 265

<sup>33</sup> It is necessary to consider the time that is wasted with the following points:

**the number of spectators × the length of the match = the amount of time wasted**, this should indicate to you the amount of time that is wasted. These hours in the life of a Muslim are wasted and squandered hours in which the help and support from Allaah is delayed from the Muslims. Allaah's help is close, however the Muslims distanced themselves from it by even a second in which Allaah's help is possible if they seek means of nearness to Him, and there is no power or might except with Allaah. There are also astounding examples, on the individual and team level, in which great amounts of time are wasted: two five-a-side football teams in Britain played against each other out in the open, without any subs, and played for 63 hours and 21 minutes from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 1980. Also two five-a-side football teams, playing indoor, played for a total of 100 hours and five minutes from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> April 1980, this was also in Britain. Also one player aged 20 done kick-ups for ten hours without non-stop in a Swedish sports centre, this took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1980 and he controlled the ball on his head, feet and shins completing a total of 80,357 kick ups without the ball hitting the ground!

<sup>34</sup> The authenticity of this document, which outlines a plan for Jewish global dominance, is not verified. Many argue that it was formulated by a Russian spy (Matvei Golovinski) for the Tsar Nicholas the 2<sup>nd</sup> during the Jewish pogroms in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century CE as a propaganda tract against the Jews in Russia.

protocol thirteen: “In order to keep the masses in misguidance, not knowing what is going on behind or in front of them, we will increase in averting their minds by way of a variety of amusements, humorous games and different types of sports, along with vain talk to nourish their tastes and desires. Furthermore, we hope to increase in the building of fine palaces and beautified structures. We will also produce publications that call to art competitions and sport.”<sup>35</sup> By observing what the magazines and newspapers spread we find amazing figures regarding the fees spent on transferring players from team to team.<sup>36</sup> These figures even reach their tens of thousands not to mention the amount of

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Others argue that they were composed by a German anti-Semite by the name of Herman Goedsche for the Prussian secret police. Goedsche utilised the works of Joly's *Dialogues* and Goedsche's works (such as those concerning the “*council of representatives*”) were published in Russia in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century CE. Hermann Bernstein of the US published a whole book in the 1920s CE claiming that the protocols were a hoax.

The protocols emerged however around 1905 CE after the *World Zionist Congress* in 1897 CE in Basel, Switzerland and for this reason many consider them to have been formulated by Zionists. The protocols are written like an instruction manual and outline how to dominate the world. Even though the authenticity of the protocols is questionable, there are many items within it that coincide with many world developments that actually took place, particularly within the years after the publication of the document. So Allaah knows best. [TN]

<sup>35</sup> *Protocoliyyat ul-Hukama Suhyoon (Protocols of the Elders of Zion)*, vol.1, p.258, T. Ajaj Newhide.

<sup>36</sup> One player in the English Premiership cost 37 million pounds sterling!! Chelsea FC have spent around £250 million in two years on signing different football players! The average weekly salary for a premiership football player in England is in the region of £15,000 to £20,000 per week, with some even going up to £100,000 a week!! Due to these high salaries, many young professional football players in England fall into alcoholism, drug abuse and gambling, these are the very same people that young people in England hold up as heroes and role-models!? [TN]

money spent on coaches, managers,<sup>37</sup> football pitches and broadcasting, and likewise all of the money that the spectators pay.<sup>38</sup>

3. In football there is a considerable amount of exposing the *'awrah*. If it involves exposing the thighs and the people look at them and people are looking at each others thighs, then this is not permissible as the thighs are from the *'awrah* and covering the *'awrah* is obligatory except from the wives and concubines, in accordance with the statement of the prophet (*sallallaahu alayhi wassallam*): *"Guard your 'awrah, except from your wife or what your rights hands possess."*<sup>39</sup> The proofs that the thigh is from the *'awrah* are many, from them: what has been verified from Imaams Maalik, Ahmad, Aboo Daawood, Turmithee, Ibn Hibbaan and al-Haakim from Jarhad al-Aslamee (*radi Allaahu 'anhu*) that the Prophet (*sallallaahu alayhi wassallam*) passed by him and his thigh was exposed. The prophet (*sallallaahu alayhi wassallam*) said: *"Cover your thigh as it is from the 'awrah."*<sup>40</sup> What has also been verified by Aboo Daawood and others from 'Alee (*radi Allaahu 'anhu*), the Messenger of Allaah said: *"Do not expose your thigh and do not*

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<sup>37</sup> The current manager of Chelsea earns around £5 million a year with other managers earning between £4.5 and 2 million a year! [TN]

<sup>38</sup> Every year season tickets go up for seats at football games and the costs of football merchandise are also high-priced. [TN]

<sup>39</sup> *Hadeeth hasan*, see *al-Irwaa* no. 1810

<sup>40</sup> Authenticated by al-Bukhaaree in his *saheeh* (vol. 1, 478); Ahmad in *al-Musnad* (vol.3, 478); Aboo Daawood in *as-Sunan*, *hadeeth* no. 4014; Tirmidhee in *al-Jaami'*, *hadeeth* no. 2798; al-Haakim in *al-Mustadrak* (vol.4, 180); Ibn Hibbaan in *as-Saheeh*, *hadeeth* no. 1710 – *al-Ihsaan*.

*look at the thigh of the living of the dead.*"<sup>41</sup> If this is known, then looking at other peoples *'awrah* is impermissible yet this is what takes place in football matches today. There is not a match where the thighs are not exposed and the *'awrah* of people are not discussed, this is the case even with female sports!!<sup>42</sup> As beautiful women appear on the TV screens as advertisements in order to cover the costs of broadcasters or other companies, and there is no power or might except with Allaah.

4. Football competitions have become a means of shifting the balance in that a hero today is a football player, not a *Muhaajid* defending the honour of the Muslims. Also there is huge expenditure on football players. Islaam does not acknowledge shifting the balance rather it grants every person their due worth without excess or immoderation. What is also strange in the current era is that the game (football) has been made into an art!! It is therefore studied in schools and given an importance greater than even that of the study of the Qur'aan and beneficial knowledge. This is a

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<sup>41</sup> Authenticated by Aboo Daawood in *as-Sunan*, *hadeeth* no. 3140 and no. 4015; Ahmad in *al-Musnad* (vol. 1, 146). The *hadeeth* is *saheeh*.

<sup>42</sup> A *fitna* indeed, it causes manifold problems within societies. Today men sit and view the bodies of female athletes who are naked, less than half-covered! There is no doubt that the bombardment of such images has an adverse affect upon the psyche of men and also of women who then begin to flaunt their bodies all in order to seek a pay rise or increase their finances. Alongside this, *kuffaar* claim that exposure to nakedness is mere "freedom" yet they are oblivious of the realities that such laxity causes and henceforth violent sexual crimes of rape and abuse are manifest and daily within *kuffaar* societies.

[TN]

proof of the intensification of the strangeness of Islaam in this era and a lack of knowledge of it and the emergence of ignorance akin to the ignorance in which Allaah sent His Messenger Muhammad. To the extent that nowadays good has returned to being evil and evil is considered good and what is the *sunnah* is considered to be an innovation and innovation has become the *sunnah*. This is a confirmation of what the *Shaykhayn* (Bukhaaree and Muslim) have verified from Anas in a *marfoo'* form: *‘Indeed from the signs of the hour is that knowledge will be raised (disappear) and ignorance will be manifest.’*<sup>43</sup> Playing football and becoming overly concerned with it, as we see, is a manifestation of ignorance, this is without a doubt with whoever has understanding from Allaah and His Messenger. As for those maniacs who have been tried by football they resembles those about whom Allaah said:

**“And leave those alone who take the religion as play and amusement, and are deceived by the life of this world”**

*{al-An’aam: 70}*

Shaykh ul-Islaam Ibn Taymeeyah said: “If the esteemed sciences are pared with the superfluous sciences, weakening them thereby, this is prohibited.” So if the matter is like this, with regards to esteemed knowledge with the superfluous,

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<sup>43</sup> Verified by al-Bukhaaree in *as-Saheeh hadeeth* nos. 80, 71, 5231, 5577, 7808; and Muslim in *as-Saheeh, hadeeth* no. 2671.

then what about football if it is equated with superfluous knowledge, as is the situation in our time. Not to mention the fact that football is not knowledge, rather it is only mere play and amusement.

5. Within football there has also been spread of betting agencies within every country in Europe, wherein people cast bets over football matches. Every country has football teams wherein they play against each other every week or every month depending upon the organisation of how football is played in the country. Betting involves using cards which feature the name of a sports team or player that is expected to win matches. So if the anticipated teams win, a specified amount is gained, and if not, the wager loses his money.<sup>44</sup> In Britain around 40% of men place bets at least once a month on football matches. In Sweden around 52% place bets on football and in America around 63 million people placed bets on football in the year 1968.<sup>45</sup> In such ways gambling dens have accepted football and made it a prohibited sport, after it was permissible. As for the Islamic lands, then such gambling dens for football or any other sport have not entered those countries. Yet some voices in Egypt seek to introduce such gambling houses for football like the affair of the emergence of huge material waste for sports associations

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<sup>44</sup> *Al-Mawsoo'at ul-Britaniyyah* (vol. 9, p.999) – (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*)

<sup>45</sup> *al-Mawsoo'at ul-Amreekiyyah* (vo. 12, p.267) – (*Encyclopaedia Americana*)

and clubs. However, these voices were not met with acceptance from those who work within sports, psychologists and sociologists. This was because they considered gambling houses as a destructive element upon the character and manners of individuals, negating Islamic *'aqeedah* and a reason for riots in stadiums. These riots lead to hundreds of spectators and gamblers being crushed, killed and wounded as is the state of those countries wherein there is a betting system.<sup>46</sup> Western sociologists have also noted how the emergence of betting on football leads to riots and violence on the football pitches, as it is an expression of the acute emptiness that people some people are living in the twentieth century. Thereafter materialism overwhelmed it, making the value of profit the main value in life, deeming it necessary to obtain it at any price. They attached this to the ethical basis upon which sport is built such as encouragement of the winners and hoping for prosperity for the losers. This foundation has definitely ended and has been exchanged for swearing, slander, throwing bricks and chairs and beating the referees and linesmen.

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<sup>46</sup> *al-Majallah 'al-Muslimoon*, no.124, Shawwaal 3 1407 AH